

Town of Kennebunk

Committee on Aging

Minutes

August 12, 2021

Present: Ted Trainer, ch; Marti Hess-Pomber, Linda Sentner, Susan Aubuchon, Judy Metcalf (by phone) Alaina Tridante Leblanc (Chamber of Commerce), Candice Simeoni (Police Dept), Blake Baldwin and Lisa Pratt (Select Board)

Excused: Molly Hoadley, Danielle Bonney

Minutes of July 8th meeting approved 4-0, with one abstention

Update on MELC: On behalf of Molly Hoadley, Ted reported that additional space has been obtained from Spurling Fitness, off Exit 25. The Town has agreed to continue temporary funding of the Pod in West Kennebunk as a backup, thereby enabling the MELC to empty out its extra supplies/equipment at KLPD. Ted also reported the team had received training on the use and care of the equipment. Marti is writing a grant proposal to KSB for additional equipment.

Update on Resource Guide Project. Alaina distribute a draft trifold. There was considerable discussion on contents and the pictures. The latter, it was felt, needed to be more representative of Kennebunk community members. Alaina agreed to make the requested changes and was warmly thanked by the Committee for her excellent work. It was then decided to table, for the time being, the discussion on possible additional formats and placements.

Update on the Senior Living Project. On behalf of Molly, Ted reported Huntington Common had joined the Avesta units in inviting the Team to make presentations about relevant Town activities and resources. These presentations will take place starting in the Fall.

Committee on Aging Next Steps:

- Candice reported she will have the services of a new intern for a full year. She looks forward to our active partnership, in whatever form the Committee might take, to help the vulnerable citizens of our town.
- Marti suggested we look into the senior community service/employment program of the State Dept. of Labor (207—287-9200). She also raised the issue of there being only one cooling station in The Kennebunks – in Arundel.
- Lisa Pratt, recognizing the CoA members were trying to find an alternative structure to continue the work supporting the Kennebunk Age-Friendly Community, stated she was proposing to the Select Board an “Ad hoc Committee on Committees.” She also asked about other structures currently being used by the 70+ AFC’s in Maine. She suggested the CoA make a proposal to the Select Board on how the program might be re-structured.
- Ted explained that the Select Board had established the Committee on Aging and approved the AFC designation. Therefore the Select Board first needed to decide if it wanted these authorizations to continue.

- It was then agreed it “might not be a bad thing” if the Select Board voted to dissolve the Committee in favor of an acceptable alternative means to empower volunteers to support the elders in our community. The general objective remains to have a structure that can act independently but also be formally recognized by, and be a good partner with, the Town.
- Ted agreed to explore the alternative organizational models and prepare a draft presentation to the Select Board for discussion at our September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Next Meeting: September 9th, 3:30 – 5 pm, Town Hall 3rd Floor

Ls/est